

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 003036 TOSEC 130174
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NODIS
CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM WARREN CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: (OVIP)VANCE, CYRUS

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THURSDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. CHINA. TED KENNEDY'S MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA AND VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING IN PEKING JANUARY 3 AND 4 FOCUSED HEAVILY ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE, IN EFFECT COVERING MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND WE WENT OVER WITH THE CHINESE IN AUGUST. KENNEDY TRIED TO IMPRESS ON THEM THE NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, BUT THE CHINESE REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE ANY ROLE TO PLAY IN DEALING WITH THE DOMESTIC U.S. POLITICAL ASPECTS OF NORMALIZATION. THE FAILURE OF BOTH TENG AND HUANG TO CONVEY A DESIRE FOR RAPID MOVEMENT TOWARD NORMALIZATION, IF THIS ENTAILED CHINESE CONCESSIONS, WAS PROBABLY INTENDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE FIRMNESS OF THE CHINESE POSITION ON TAIWAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 003036 TOSEC 130174

RATHER THAN SATISFACTION WITH THE STATUS QUO. INDEED, TENG EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NORMALIZATION COULD BE PROMPTLY ACCOMPLISHED, BUT HE SAW THIS AS ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON U.S. ACTIONS AND HAD NOTHING NEW TO PROPOSE.

2. REPORTED CURB ON EMBASSY MOSCOW CONTACTS. A STORY IN THE WASHINGTON POST TODAY ASSERTED THAT NEW PROCEDURES IN

OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAVE RESTRICTED EMBASSY CONTACTS WITH DISSIDENTS. THIS IS A DISTORTION OF PRACTICES INSTITUTED BY AMBASSADOR TOON TO MAKE SURE HE KNOWS WHAT CONTACTS HIS OFFICERS ARE PURSUING, PARTICULARLY WITH WELL-KNOWN DISSENTERS. HE REQUIRES ONLY THAT HIS OFFICERS CHECK WITH HIM BEFORE MEETING WITH PROMINENT DISSIDENTS. THERE ARE GOOD REASONS FOR DOING SO, INCLUDING THE RISKS WHICH SUCH CONTACTS MIGHT ENTAIL FOR THE DISSIDENTS. THE PROMPT AND FULL REPORTING WE GET FROM THE EMBASSY ON DISSIDENT MATTERS, AS WELL AS REPORTING BASED ON LESS SENSITIVE CONTACTS IN SOVIET SOCIETY, TESTIFY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EMBASSY CONTACTS EVEN UNDER THE LIMITATIONS POSED BY THE SOVIET SYSTEM.

3. PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. SENATOR BAKER'S STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS YESTERDAY IN PANAMA, IN WHICH HE SAID THAT HE COULD ACCEPT THE TREATIES WITH SOME CHANGES BY AMENDMENT OR RESERVATION, WERE VERY CLOSE TO WHAT WE EXPECTED. BAKER HAS INDICATED THROUGH HIS AIDES HE WANTS TO SUPPORT THE TREATIES, BUT THAT IT IS IMPORTANT POLITICALLY THAT HE SEEK MODIFICATIONS SHORT OF DAMAGING THE TREATIESM

BAKER TOLD TORRIJOS THAT THE TREATIES COULD NOT PASS THE SENATE IN THEIR PRESENT FORM AND SAID THE CARTER-TORRIJOS OCTOBER 14 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE PART OF THE NEUTRALITY TREATY. HE ALSO SPOKE OF
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 003036 TOSEC 130174

CHANGES IN THE SEA-LEVEL CANAL PROVISION AND THE PROVISION GOVERNING DISPLAY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG IN THE CANAL ZONE. WHEN TORRIJOS RESPONDED, WE BELIEVE HE MAY HAVE PRESENTED HIMSELF AS MORE FLEXIBLE ON TREATY AMENDMENTS THAN HE REALLY IS, IN ORDER TO AVOID ALIENATING BAKER. APPARENTLY TORRIJOS INDICATED SIMILAR FLEXIBILITY IN TALKING WITH SENATOR DOLE. HOWEVER, TORRIJOS HAS SAID ON MANY OCCASIONS, PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY, THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT CHANGES TO THE TREATIES THEMSELVES.

4. TONGSUN PARK. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM REPRESENTATIVE FLYNT, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE, THAT WE INFORM THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE" OF THE COMMITTEE'S DESIRE THAT TONGSUN PARK BE MADE AVAILABLE "FOR EVERY PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDING CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE IN WHICH HIS TESTIMONY IS NEEDED." WE NOW PLAN TO ASK AMBASSADOR SNEIDER FOR HIS SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED. WE WILL ADVISE THE ETHICS COMMITTEE THAT WE ARE DOING SO AND WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH THEM SHORTLY. WE HOPE WE MAY BE ABLE TO ENGAGE JAWORSKI IN A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND PROCESS BASED ON FLYNT'S REQUEST.

5. THE YACHT BRILLIG. THE VIETNAMESE INFORMED US IN PARIS THIS MORNING THAT THE BRILLIG AND HER THREE CREW-MEMBERS HAD BEEN RELEASED ON TUESDAY AND ESCORTED TO THE SOUTHERN TIP OF VIETNAM. THEY DID NOT REFER TO THEIR EARLIER DEMAND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSURE PAYMENT OF THE DOLS 243,000 FINE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO FINE HAS BEEN PAID, AND THE CONTRADICTORY VIETNAMESE STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS ON THE BRILLIG SINCE DECEMBER 20 REMAIN UNEXPLAINED. DEFENSE HAS BEGUN A SEARCH FOR THE VESSEL, WHOSE RADIO SIGNALS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BY AUSTRALIAN HAM RADIO OPERATORS.

6. PL 480 AGREEMENTS. FY-1978 TITLE I AGREEMENTS HAVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 003036 TOSEC 130174

NOW BEEN NEGOTIATED AND SIGNED WITH NINE GOVERNMENTS, COVERING 2.7 MILLION METRIC TONS OF COMMODITIES (APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL TITLE I PROGRAM FOR FY-1978). PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT OF MOST OF THESE COMMODITIES ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED OR ARE UNDERWAY WITH ANOTHER NINE COUNTRIES, COVERING NEARLY 750,000 TONS OF COMMODITIES. THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS, WITH PURCHASE AND SHIPMENT TO FOLLOW. PROGRAMS FOR 12 OTHER COUNTRIES, COVERING ANOTHER 1.6 MILLION TONS, ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE INTER-AGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT AMENDMENT THAT BRINGS HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS TO BEAR ON THE TITLE I PROGRAM, WE HAVE THUS FAR ASKED SIX COUNTRIES WITH SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS TO AGREE TO A NEW PROVISION IN THE PL 480 AGREEMENT WHICH, IN ESSENCE, PROVIDES THAT THE FOOD OR THE PROCEEDS FROM ITS SALE WILL BE USED TO BENEFIT THE NEEDY. FOLLOWING IS THE STATUS OF TITLE I PROGRAMMING IN THESE SIX COUNTRIES.

--INDONESIA: THE INDONESIANS ACCEPTED THE NEW PROVISION AND THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED. WE ARE ADVISED THAT THEY WILL PROBABLY START TO PURCHASE THE COMMODITIES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

--KOREA AND BANGLADESH: THE NEW PROVISION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE NEARING COMPLETION. SHIPMENTS CAN BE SCHEDULED SOON THEREAFTER.

--SOMALIA: NEGOTIATIONS HAVE JUST BEGUN. WE BELIEVE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 003036 TOSEC 130174

THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT OBJECT TO THE LANGUAGE.

--GUINEA: HE NEW PROVISION HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, AN
AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SIGNED, AND SHIPMENTS CAN BE SCHEDULED.

--ZAIRE: NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL UNDERWAY, BUT THE GOZ
HAS NOT OBJECTED TO THE NEW PROVISION.

IN VIEW OF SIGNIFICANT CONGRESSIONAL AND FARM STATE
INTEREST IN EXPEDITING THIS YEAR'S TITLE I PROGRAM, WE
WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK MAXIMUM PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING
THE PROGRAM. CHRISTOPHER

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